Computing at Croft Community School

Curriculum intent

At Croft Community School the Computing curriculum is designed to allow students to learn the skills needed to prepare for life in a digital world.

At **Key Stages 1 and 2** Computing is delivered alongside the International Primary Curriculum and is used as a tool to aid learning throughout the Primary Phase. The students will cover three topics in each Key Stage, these are Computer Science, Digital Literacy and Information Technology and allow students to cover the National Curriculum Programmes of Study.

The majority of pupils will access content within their appropriate year groups; however this may be adapted accordingly.

At **Key Stage 3** students will experience a breadth of study in line with the National Curriculum programmes of study which gives them opportunities to experience strands of computing from programing to digital literacy.

The majority of the Key Stage 3 classes are taught by the Computing subject lead and the curriculum is structured around the following themes and is intended to start with more basic concepts and progress in its complexity over the three years:

Year 7– Establishing knowledge and understanding of the basics of how the computer works through the study of basic concepts including the uses of Hardware, Software skills and Programming.

Year 8 – Developing knowledge and understanding of how the computer works through the application of acquired knowledge. Considering how we communicate with computers including Binary code and visual programming.

Year 9 – Preparing for Key Stage 4 and extend knowledge and skills through enhancing software skills to include more complex programmes such as Photoshop, Python. Students will also look at the ethics around computer uses.

In every year group students look at online safety and will have the opportunity to complete a creative project to consolidate skills.

The exception to this curriculum model is for our discrete SLD class who follow the ASDAN Transition challenge and will utilise computers in this learning.

Lesson are differentiated according to the need of the student and support from Teaching Assistant means that all students are given the opportunity to access a broad curriculum.

Skills developed throughout Key Stage 3 will be utilized at Key Stage 4 either through the functional skills curriculum or through the creative application of computer software in Creative iMedia.

At **Key Stage 4** all students apart from SLD students study Functional Skills ICT giving them the basic skills needed to be an efficient user of ICT and thereby preparing them for adulthood.

Students with Severe Learning Difficulties will study a range of AQA Unit awards in Information Technology at Key Stage 4.

Students are also given the opportunity to opt for further computer related study in the form of Creative iMedia which gives students the chance to develop their creative use of computer software.

The courses delivered at Key Stage 4 were chosen so that students of all abilities and interests could gain accreditation in Computing.

Functional Skills gives students the chance to gain practical knowledge of Microsoft Office which is widely used in the work place equipping them with transferable skills in adulthood. Functional Skills is also available and a range of levels which means that all students have the chance to achieve.

Unit Awards are offered to our SLD students who require a little more support. Again this accreditation is available at a number of levels which means it can be tailored to specific needs and abilities. Unit Award can be completed in a range of ICT related areas which offers variety and interest to keep students engaged. Unit Award can be completed in a less pressurized environment which reduces stress for our students whilst allowing them to be successful.

Creative iMedia offers students the opportunity to further their interests in the creative use of computer software through the use of Photoshop, Flash and Dreamweaver. Students who wish to pursue this area of computing are given a solid grounding in the use of industry standard software packages. Creative iMedia allows for accreditation at a range of levels which means it is accessible for a wider range of students.

The computing curriculum offers students the experience a wide range of computer related topics whilst engaging them in independent learning and group work.

Preparation for life in a digital world is an important part of our curriculum with students studying the Education for a Connected World scheme through Computing lessons but also through a discrete weekly lesson in Pastoral time where students look at how to stay safe online and the impact of the digital world.

Positive feedback is given constantly to promote a sense of achievement and reflection is encouraged to develop resilience.

Questioning and discussion are encouraged to allow the students to explore their understanding.

The subject lead is constantly reflecting on the content and delivery of the scheme of work, adapting lessons as needed for different ability groups whilst allowing all students to access the curriculum.

Data is used from previous years to inform the teaching of topics ensuring work is not repeated but also that it is of a suitable level for the students in the class.

The review and evaluation of work and response to feedback is taught throughout key Stage 3 and becomes a key part of the Key Stage 4 curriculum.

Independent learning is encouraged throughout both Key Stages in preparation for adulthood.

Implementation – How our curriculum is delivered

Teaching and Learning in Computing uses a variety of techniques in its delivery with class discussion, independent work and feedback being key to establishing learning outcomes.

Computing is delivered as a discrete lesson by a subject specialist to ensure the quality of subject knowledge. At Key Stage 3 and 4 there is one computing lesson per week and 2 lessons of Creative iMedia if chosen as an option.

Students enjoy their computing lessons which can be evidenced through the very low levels of behaviour incidents in computing lessons and the increase in uptake of Creative iMedia at Key Stage 4.

Students are constantly given verbal feedback so that they can meet lesson objectives and personal targets. Formal written feedback is given at the end of a topic or project with time built into the lesson for students to respond to feedback.

Impact – The difference our curriculum is making

Computing as a subject has been significantly developed with the arrival of a subject specialist and investment in computing equipment. Prior to 2018 Computing was not fully embedded into the curriculum at Croft Community School meaning that the vast majority of students had no exposure to computing as a subject.

Now, when our students transition from the Primary to the secondary phase they have already experienced Computing throughout their learning and will have a basic grasp of concepts from the three areas of Computer Science. Digital Literacy and Information Technology. This aids their progress when they join Key Stage Three as they are familiar with some of the basic uses of the computer.

All students in Key Stage 3 and 4 now study Computing/Information Technology in preparation adulthood and life in a digital world.

At Key Stage 3 progress is made from staring points by all students as evidenced in their Progression Levels. 70% of students met their subject targets in 2018-19. Those who did not meet targets still showed significant progress from starting points.

At Key Stage 4 the 2019-20 cohort will be the first to fully complete the two year Functional Skills ICT qualifications at a variety of levels from Entry Level to Level 2.

For our SLD students the opportunity to gain Unit Award certificates means they can also gain meaningful computing skills and qualifications.

Achievement in Creative iMedia is good with 83% of the cohort having already achieved their Level1 1 Award in Creative iMedia. And now working towards their Level 1/2 Certificate.